Setting up of Ozone Fund Multilateral Committee

2255. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the executive committee of the multilateral Ozone Fund set up under the Montreal Protocol has approved India's country programme (CP) for phasing out Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS);

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and how it is proposed to be utilised;

(c) whether some physical targets and time frame have been prescribed for the scheme as conditionalities; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Montreal Protocol Executive Committee has approved the India country programme documentation. However, it has asked us to incorporate in the country programme documentation additional information on small scale sector, list of projects, basis of calculation of incremental cost and requested us to consider possibilities of accelerating phase out and avoiding new ODS production facilities. The country programme documentation, so revised, is to be submitted to the Montreal Protocol Executive Committee at a subsequent meeting.

(b) India's per capita consumption of Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) is low, and as such it qualifies for financial and technical cooperation, including the transfer of technologies. India is self sufficient in the production of Chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), and is expected to become self sufficient in the production of Halons.

To achieve the phaseout of ODS a mix of instruments in the form of voluntary agreements, legislations and regulations, fiscal incentives, educational programmes and information campaigns will be used.

The approach will be to encourage local production. Thrust will be to maintain self-sufficiency in respect of substitutes and minimize economic dislocation. Drop-in-substitutes will be developed as far as practicable, and conservation and recycling project formulated to off-set the cost to the consumer. Programmes will be initiated to ensure that the small and tiny enterprises, informal sector and consumers are helped.

The Country Programme is proposed to be utilized for implementation of the Montreal Protocol, particularly for preparation of phase out projects by the industry for seeking grant from the Multilateral Fund set up for the purpose.

(c) and (d) The Protocol (London Amendment) provides that the Ozone Depleting Substances in the category of countries in which India is placed, are to be phased out by the year 2010 and replaced by alternative environmental friendly substances or process. The commitment is contingent on transfer of technology and financial resources.

Allotment of waste and forest lands to private companies

2256. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to give waste and forest lands to private companies;

(b) if so, what is the rationale thereof;

(c) whether Government would consider allotting such lands to the landless marginal, small and medium farmers as well as educated unemployed; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No, Sir. There is no proposal to transfer any land to private companies.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) To divert the Forest land for non-forestry purposes, prior sanction of Central Government is required under the provisions of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Participation of local communities in protection and management is, however, being managed on resource sharing basis.

Pollution threat to alphonso crops

2257. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the newsitem which appeared in the Times of India of 17th January, 1994 to the effect that pollution was seriously threatening the mango crop of Alphonso variety;

(b) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra Government is refusing to make public the findings of an expert committee on the effects of deadly sulphur dioxide on the city's environment;

(c) whether it is also a fact that this adverse effect on the mango crop and other cash crops is being primarily caused by the copper-smelting plant bleaching out sulphur dioxide to foul the environment; and

(d) whether it is a fact that the citizens of Ratnagiri are very much upset and they have been independently undertaking studies of environment there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The information is being collected from the State Government of Maharashtra and would be laid on the Table of the House.

राजस्थान में संरक्षित अभ्यारण्यों में खनन की अनुमति

2258. **श्री शिव चरण सिंह :** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) सरकार द्वारा 19 जनवरी, 1991 को अधिसूचना जारी करने के बाद राजस्थान में संरक्षित अभ्यारण्यों में खनन की अनुमति प्रदान करने के लिए कितने आवेदन-पत्र प्राप्त हुए हैं ;

(ख) क्या उक्त अभ्यारण्यों में पट्टे पर या बिना पट्टे के खनन कार्य चल रहा है ;

(ग) वन विभाग द्वारा अब तक अवैध खनन के संबंध में कितने मामले दायर किए गए हैं और उन पर क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ; और

(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि वहां पर विभाग की मिली-भगत से खनन कार्य हो रहा है और विभाग इस संबंध में मुकदमें दायर करने का इच्छुक नहीं है और यदि हां, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ): (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

वन-क्षेत्र में उद्योगों की स्थापना

2259. **श्री विट्ठलराव माधवराव जाधव :** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार ने वन-क्षेत्रों में कुछ उद्योगों की स्थापना की अनुमति प्रदान कर दी है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इसके कारण कारण क्या हैं ;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने अपनी नीति में कोई परिवर्तन किए हैं ; और